

**John Posey to George Washington, May 25, 1771,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of
America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

FROM CAPTAIN JOHN POSEY.

QUEENS TOWN, May 25th 1771

SIR,

I wrote you Last month, when I was at the Provinsiall Court, and to Mr. Thos. Lawson, to be kind Enough, to Lett my son John, come here, that he shu'd Return in few days, his not Coming, I suppose the Letters never got to hand, these [I] Expect will by Mr. Haul Mercht. Alexandrae—Your Letter you wrote me the 20-January Last, I Recd. the first of Last month—Contents Observd.,—Your not having any Conection, with the Appeal, of Captn. John West, to the Generall Court, the Reasons you give, is Satisfaction to me—I am convinc'd Mr. West will never Recover it, if I have Justice done me, if he has not got Judgment against for them few Acres, this Last Generall Court, I [will] be Prepair'd, for Esqr. West against the fall, he has been Very Troublesome body to me, during his Aunt[s] Lifetime, he had many sute, Brought against me, if any [treated???] the old woman in the familiar way, or negros acquaiantd. him any foolish thing, a sute was Emediatly Brought—Mr. Harrison was my Counsell, And I gave him Six Dollars in hand, Conserving Mr.

Rosss¹ sute against me, he sd. there was noe such thing as Law, or Reason, for Reale Est. to be made Liable to be sold, for Debt—I confess that I know nothing about the Law, in I want Justice—my Oconomy has been bad, its wou'd be Excessive hard, for them few Acres, and what little Improvements, to be sold for Little or nothing, in case Mr Esqr.

Library of Congress

West shu'd be mistaken and Luse it—Mr. Thos. Ringgold Treated me, Excessive Ill, in Empling to you for negroe Jack, he knew that the fellow was your Property, I show'd him the Instrement writing you gave me, he then said, notwithstanding, he wou'd give me £90-0-0. Maryland Currency, my Answer to him, if he wou'd give £200. he shu'd not have the fellow unless it was Agreeable to you, Mr. Ringgold was my Security for gitting Letters to Administer on my wife's Est. I Loug'd² five negroes with him, untill her debts was Paid, after they were Apprais'd, he want'd them at the Apprays'dment, I want'd them sold to the highest bidder, he wou'd not Allow it, that made him Angry, its still in that Possession—as he is Very Able Person—And I was under Dread, he mite git Possession of Jack—and give you trouble, coming or sending for him, Perhaps a Law sute before you could get Poss[ess]ion of him again—Caus'd me to Send him to you—I have all my Life time Acted honest and is determ'd to doe so, my Life time Lett me suffer ever so much—If Mr. West, has not got Judgment, for my Little Lands, And Improvements, on Potowmack River, Pray will you be kind enough, to send me some cash by my son John, I Really am in great want, my Letting Hanson, have Part my Cloaths, when he was over last fall, causes me to suffer—I ow'd for my son St. Lawrences Schooling—I had my old Shirrts, and things cut up for him, to keep him his in cloaths, that he mite be at scool—I Dont Pay anything for his Board—he will understand Arithmetick well enough by the fall, [to be] Put into some Business Mr. Cowdon the scool master says he is [a] fine boy & Learns fast—If I can be able to keep him at school untill the fall, I shall be satisfied—with your assistance I can—If Mr. West has not Judgment for the Land, You dont owe me any Rent—untill November,³ things [of] this sort, I know is Disagreeable, to you, its [a] Case [of] necessity Causes to me to be so Presing,—my son Johns, Receit if you are kind Enough, to send me Any Cash, will be good, I made Bold to give Hanson [an] order on you, for twenty shillings Maryland Currency, Last month, when I was at Annapolis,—it Gives me Double Satisfaction, that my son John, is with, so worthy a man as Mr. Lawson,⁴—I have wrote Mr. Law son if he could spard him to come here, that he shu'd Return in few days,—I am much Oblidge to you, for Prevailing on Mr. Lawson to take him—I have wrote Mr. Lawson that If John Does

Library of Congress

not obey his orders, to Give him Severe Repremand, to keep him Closly Impleyed—You was speaking to me Last spring that there was Probility, of the offisers, in the Virginnæ Regments, having some Lands on the Ohio, if so you [are] inclin'd to Purchass, if there is any such thing, you may have my Part, for what you think is the Value of it⁵—I hope to be clare of this Place, by the fall, its Disagreeable Life to me to be Idle—

I could [have] been able to [have] Satisfied all my old Arrears, Some months A Goe, by marrying [an] old widow woman in this Country, She has Large soms [of] cash by her, and Prittey good Est.—She is as thick, as she is high—And gits drunk at Least three or foure [times] a weak—which is Disagreeable to me—has Viliant Sperrit when Drunk—its been [a] Great Dispute in my mind what to Doe,—I beleave I shu'd Run all Resk's—if my Last wife, had been [an] Even temper'd woman, but her Sperrit, has Given me such [a] Shock—that I am afraid to Run the Resk Again, when I see the object before my Ey[e]s [it] is Disagreeable—Your favour, with my Request, will lay me under the Greatest Obligations---

I am Sir your obt. and most Humble st. JNO POSEY.

1 Hector Ross, of Colchester.

2 Lodged.

3 For the use of the ferry which crossed the Potomac from Captain Posey's place to Thomas H. Marshall's (Marshall Hall). The charge for a man and horse was one shilling each. See Hening, vol. vi. p. 375.

4 Robert Lawson, of Fairfax County.

5 5772Octobr. 54. By Cash pd. Capta. Posey for his Right to 3000 Acres of Land undr. ye Kings Proclamation of Octr. 5763—5 half Joes ... £55.55.3 (Washington's Ledger.)